

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 19487 282302Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----125252 290026Z /70

R 281800Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBURG GE  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 8785

S E C R E T ROME 19487

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES TREAT AS SPECAT (EXCLUSIVE)

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AODE, MILI, PINR, IT  
SUBJ: USAREUR LIAISON GROUP ROME

1. IN A RECENT MESSAGE TO ALL AMBASSADORS, THE PRESIDENT  
NOTED:

"THE SIZE OF OUR REPRESENTATION ABROAD MUST BE  
RELATED TO A STRINGENT APPRAISAL OF POLICY AND PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL OF ALL  
AGENCIES MUST BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO  
ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES. I CONSIDER THIS TO BE ONE  
OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT GOALS."

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES, THIS EMBASSY  
HAS BEEN EXAMINING THE SIZE AND FUNCTION OF ALL AGENCIES,  
REPRESENTED IN ROME, THAT ARE EITHER DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE  
TO THE AMBASSADOR OR WHOSE PRESENCE HAS AN IMPACT ON  
THE CONDUCT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ITALY. THERE  
IS A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN AGENCIES IN  
ROME, SEVERAL OF WHICH, WE BELIEVE, PERFORM FUNCTIONS

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THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN FROM THE UNITED STATES, OR  
ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, OR HANDLED BY OTHER AGENCIES  
LOCATED IN ROME, OR ARE FUNCTIONS OF QUESTIONABLE  
RELEVANCE OR UTILITY TO AMERICAN POLICY GOALS IN  
ITALY.

3. AS PART OF OUR EXAMINATION WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH

THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE USAREUR LIAISON GROUP THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING THAT OFFICE. FIVE PERSONNEL ARE AUTHORIZED, BUT PRESENTLY ONLY THREE POSITIONS ARE FILLED. IN OUR OPINION SOME OF THE WORK DONE BY THE USAREUR LIAISON OFFICE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION, SOME OF IT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN BY TDY FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS, AND SOME OF IT IS OF MARGINAL UTILITY TO U.S. INTERESTS. THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE USAREUR LIAISON GROUP HAS INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO REDUCE THE AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT OF HIS OFFICE FROM FIVE TO THREE, BUT HE STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT HIS MISSION IS IMPORTANT TO SATISFYING LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND AND INTERESTED ELEMENTS OF THE DOD, AND THAT THE OFFICE SHOULD BE RETAINED.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS EMBASSY IS DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES TO REDUCE THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ROME TO THOSE AGENCIES WITH A CLEAR AND PRESENT NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT HERE, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ELIMINATE THOSE HIGH PRIORITY FUNCTIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE FURTHERANCE OF U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS IN ITALY IN WAYS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE USAREUR LIAISON OFFICE MEETS THOSE CRITERIA BUT ARE NATURALLY WILLING TO LISTEN. GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** AODE, MILI, PINR, IT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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